



24th Navajo Nation Council

Office of the Speaker

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Naabik'iyáti' Expresses Opposition to Measure Permitting Roadbuilding and Logging within Former Bears Ears Boundary

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – In a special meeting Wednesday, June 5 the Naabik'iyáti' Committee expressed opposition to a proposal by the state of Utah to permit roadbuilding and logging inside the former Bears Ears National Monument boundary.

In 2017, the state petitioned the US president to diminish the boundaries of the National Monument, arguing that “Inventoried Roadless Areas” inside the original monument boundary were already protected in the 2001 US Forest Service Roadless Area Rule.

Presently, the state is proposing to permit roadbuilding and logging on some Roadless Lands, including Boulder Mountain in Garfield County.

“The state needs to know where the Nation stands,” stated Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. (Shonto, Naa'tsis'áán, Oljato, Ts'áh Bii Kin), the legislation's sponsor. “This land is sacred not only to us, but also to our fellow tribes in the southwest. We need to lead on their behalf and stand up for our lands.”

Delegate Daniels regularly participates in the Utah Tribal Leaders meetings. In his work with the group, he has strengthened Navajo's connection with other Utah tribes to advance mutual interests. Delegates Nathaniel Brown (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) and Charlene Tso (Mexican Water, Aneth, Teecnospos, Tólikan, Red Mesa) also participate in the tribal leaders group.

Legislation 0128-19 passed unanimously, and the Naabik'iyáti' Committee is final authority.

The Committee next convenes Thursday, June 13 at 10 a.m. in the Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz.

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